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PCT App. No.: PCT/FI2005/050042
Preliminary Amendment filed Aug. 29, 2006

Claim Listing

1–13. (canceled)

14. (new) A paper machine headbox vane assembly comprising:
a paper machine headbox vane having a selected moisture level; and
a vapor-proof package enclosing the vane.

15. (new) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the vane is manufactured of at least partially a water-absorbing material.

16. (new) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the vane is manufactured at least partially of a water-absorbing plastic.

17. (new) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the vane is manufactured at least partially of a water-absorbing composite, composed of a binder and fibers.

18. (new) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the vane selected moisture level is at a level which the vane would have when the vane reached an equilibrium moisture content in a headbox.

19. (new) The assembly of claim 14, wherein the vapor-proof package is a vacuum package.

20. (new) A method for ensuring the straightness of a vane for a headbox of a paper machine comprising the steps of:

moistening the vane to a selected moisture content followed by;
enclosing the moistened vane in a vapor-proof package.

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21. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of manufacturing at least part of the vane of a water-absorbing material.

22. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of manufacturing at least part of the vane of a water-absorbing plastic material.

23. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of manufacturing at least part of the vane of a water-absorbing, composite material.

24. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the selected moisture content corresponds to the vane equilibrium moisture content in headbox conditions.

25. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of keeping the vane in the package until the vane is put into use.

26. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of enclosing the moistened vane in the vapor-proof package includes drawing and retaining a vacuum in the package.

27. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of moistening the vane is preformed in connection with a step of manufacturing the vane.

28. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of moistening comprises keeping the vane in a steam atmosphere until the vane's moisture content reaches the selected level.

29. (new) The method of claim 20 wherein the step of moistening the vane comprises keeping the vane in a hot water bath until the vane's moisture content reaches the selected level.

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30. (new) A method for ensuring the straightness of a vane for a headbox of a paper machine comprising the steps of:
manufacturing the vane at least in part of a water-absorbing material;
moistening the vane to a selected moisture content followed by;
enclosing the moistened vane in a vapor-proof package;
providing a vacuum to the vapor-proof package and closing the package air-tightly;
transporting the vane in the package while retaining the selected moisture content; and
before using the vane checking to see if the vacuum package remains unbroken, and if the vacuum package remains unbroken installing the vane in a headbox.

31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of moistening the vane to a selected moisture content is preformed by storing the vane in a steam chamber where the vane is subjected to steam until the selected moisture content is reached.

32. (new) The method of claim 30 where in the step of moistening the vane to a selected moisture content is preformed by immersing the vane in water of a selected temperature until the selected moisture content is reached.